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Message Text

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70
ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 H-02 PCH-04

L-03 ACDA-19 GAC-01 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 AID-20 TRSE-00

/172 R

66640
DRAFTED BY NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS
APPROVED BY NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS
S/ PRS: CBRAY (INFO)
NEA: SBUTCHER
AF/ P: GAFRIEDMAN
IO/ P: FBLACHLY
NEA/ EGY: MSTERNER
H: KFOLGER (INFO)
EUR/ P: ESAVAGE
---------- 012485
R 232009 Z APR 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION NATO
USINT BAGHDAD BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY SANAA BY POUCH

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TEHRAN FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN' S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 23, 1973:

QUOTE: Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THIS SECRET AND APPARENTLY NOT SO SECRET PLAN ANDREOTTI SUPPOSED TO HAVE PRESENTED THE PRESIDENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST? IT IS ALL OVER THE ITALIAN NEWSPAPERS NOW.

A. YES. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION WHEN THE ITALIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS IN THE UNITED STATES AMONG OTHER THINGS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND POSSIBLE WAYS IN WHICH TO PROCEED IN THE DIRECTION OF SOME SETTLEMENT. I AM, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS AGAIN, I THINK PROBABLY NOT THE BEST SOURCE WITH RESPECT TO THE STORY. I HAVE SEEN ACCOUNTS TODAY WHICH SUGGEST THAT THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF BUILDING A SECOND SUEZ CANAL, AND THAT, I WILL SAY, IS NOT A SUBJECT WHICH CAME UP IN ANY WAY IN WASHINGTON.

Q. WOULD YOU COMMENT ON WHETHER THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER' S STATEMENT YESTERDAY ON FACE THE NATION ADVANCED THE SITUATION TOWARDS A MORE HOPEFUL VIEW OF THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON HIS REMARKS OF YESTERDAY.

Q. ANYTHING ON THE FRENCH MIRAGES FROM LIBYA TO EGYPT?

A. I HAVE SEEN A NUMBER OF STORIES IN THIS MATTER OVER
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THE LAST FIVE OR SIX DAYS, BUT I THINK, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AT LEAST, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS THE MORE COMPETENT TO ADDRESS ITSELF TO THEM.

Q. THE FRENCH HAVE DENIED THAT THE SO- CALLED " PROOF" WHICH

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THEY WERE PRESENTED WAS IN FACT -- QUOTE, UNQUOTE -- PROOF. HAVE WE TAKEN THIS UP PRIVATELY OR SEPARATELY WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO DETERMINE -- AND/ OR WITH THE ISRAELIS -- TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHAT THE ACTUAL FACTS ARE?

A. THAT IS NOT THE KIND OF THING ON WHICH I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO COMMENT.

Q. IT WAS LARGELY -- I WOULDN' T SAY " LARGELY" BUT TO SOME EXTENT AT OUR INSISTENCE THAT WHEN THE ORIGINAL SALE OF THESE MIRAGES WAS MADE TO LIBYA, THAT THERE WAS A CLAUSE PUT IN THE AGREEMENT THAT THEY COULD NOT BE TURNED OVER TO A THIRD COUNTRY. IS THAT NOT --?

A. I THINK YOU DO VIOLENCE TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT' S ABILITY TO WORK OUT ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS IN THIS KIND OF MATTER SO I REJECT THE PREMISE ON WHICH YOU ARE BEGINNING YOUR QUESTION.

Q. WELL, THE QUESTION I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IS -- IS THE UNITED STATES AT ALL CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE TRANSFER OF THESE PLANES? HAVE YOU ADDRESSED YOURSELF TO THAT QUESTION?

A. NO, AND I WON' T FOR THE TIME BEING, AT LEAST.

Q. ON THIS SAME QUESTION, I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR EFFORT TO GIVE THE QUESTION BACK TO THE FRENCH, BUT IT WAS FROM THIS PODIUM THAT WE WERE TOLD-- I DON' T REMEMBER EXACTLY WHEN -- THAT THE UNITED STATES SOUGHT AND GOT FROM THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES THAT THE PLANES BEING SOLD TO LIBYA WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERRED TO EGYPT. SO THAT IN LIGHT OF THE REPORT, ARE YOU MAKING AN EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHETHER THESE ASSURANCES HAVE BEEN VIOLATED?

A. YES. AND I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT ONE, EITHER, FOR THE TIME BEING, AT LEAST. END QUOTE. ROGERS
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NOTE BY OC/ T: POUCHED BAGHDAD, SANAA.

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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BEIRUT
CAIRO
DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
JIDDA
KUWAIT

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MANAMA
MULTIPLE
TEHRAN
TEL AVIV
Type: TE
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